

## **Adult Services Policy Council**

### **SYNOPSIS of January 6, 2006 MEETING**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>Member/ Guest</b>
Martin Basti	Sheriff's Department	Member
Meredith Bates	Bates Care Management	Member
Marsha Bollinger	Public Health Department	Member
Eve Cherry	Economic Opportunity Commission	Member
Pam Craybaugh	Tri-Counties Regional Center	Member
John Gannon, Ph.D	Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board	Member
Lillian Judd	Economic Opportunity Commission	Member
Angie King	Adult Abuse Prevention Council	Member
joyce ellen lippman	Area Agency on Aging	Member
Lidia Aranago McCune	Latino Outreach Council	Member
Colleen McLean	Commission on Aging	Member
Mendelson, Evan	Hotline	Member
Carol Schmidt	Sr. Peer Counseling	Member
An Travers	Social Services	Member
Janet White	Best Care	Member
Betty Woolslayer	Public Authority	Member
Tracey Vardas	Office of Emergency Services	Guest
Nancy Norwood	Retired	Guest
Mary Miller	EOC Ombdusman	Guest

### **INTRODUCTIONS, CORRECTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The members went around the room. Self-introductions, and announcements were made.

Meredith Bates - There will be a meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, called by Henritte Groot, to discuss the Beacon Hill Village program. The program supports elders who live independently in Beacon Hill, Boston, by providing a comprehensive concierge service for community residents. An article describing the program is in the December 2005 AARP bulletin.

Lillian Judd - The ACTION committee is planning a new survey to take place in November and December 2006. The results of the survey will be published in a Needs Assessment Data Book. The ASPC members participated in a targeted questionnaire targeted to our clients. We will begin the planning process to do the same this time. The targeted questionnaire will remain the same as last time with the exception of questions about how clients are accessing Medicare Part D. Drug benefits. *ACTION issues will be added to the monthly ASPC agenda.*

Discussion about the implementation of Medicare Part D: There are over 40 plans available in California, from over 30 companies. HICAP has been receiving more calls than anticipated and has hired temporary staff. Persons with Medi-Medi have been assigned randomly to drug benefit plans whether or not their current drugs are covered in the plan. Many are finding that they have to pay new co-pays for their medication. The Website is complicated to use and understand. Please ask your clients to call Medicare for assistance. Pharmacies are not up to speed with the new system and clients are having trouble getting their medications. Some health insurance companies, including Secure Horizons, are terminating clients from health insurance if they choose another company for their drug benefits. Some employers who cover retirees may be doing the same thing. Agencies may need to have staff members become the Medicare Part D. experts so that clients do not lose benefits.

Marsha Bollinger reported that Jess Montoya reported to the County Board of Supervisors that CHC had met all of the performance measures set by the County as part of its contract with CHC, had saved the County money, had provided more services to clients in more locations and had received more revenue. CHC will try to expand services on the areas of mental health and children's dental.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADDITION/CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES:** None.

**DISASTER PREPARAEDNESS - Tracey Vardas, Office of Emergency Services.**

What plans are in place to help the elderly and persons with disabilities in an emergency? There are several procedures in place. The County has sent out "Special Needs" cards to find persons who will need assistance. The Department of Social Services provides a client list of persons who may need assistance. A regional database is developed from the returned cards and client list. The Fire Department in the affected area is provided a list of folks who live in their own homes. Fire personnel check on those folks and arrange transportation by ambulance or bus if evacuation is needed. The Emergency Center also received information from Home Health Agencies and other health facilities. Long Term Care facilities are contracted and are provided buses and ambulances to evacuate clients. Staffs of the Office of Emergency Services and Karen Stenson are arranging workshops LTC operators to do some emergency preparedness trainings.

Tracey Vardas, Emergency Services Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services  
(continued)

Discussion: What is the easiest way for First Responders to get needed medical information about our clients? The AAA has a Medical Information Kit that can be attached to the refrigerator door. A copy of a health care directive can be put in a plastic bag and put in the freezer.

The OES database has a list of about 300 special needs persons in the county. Tracy will provide agencies with bulk post cards to have their client added to the database. Call Tracey if you want post cards. Her direct phone number is, 781-1268. For the general public, the number for OES is, 781-5011.

OES will be doing community workshops and Tracey is willing to make the workshop agenda available to members.

The three potential disasters being anticipated are: earthquake, fire, and flood. It is expected that the general public will need to maintain themselves for the first 72 hours of the emergency. Special needs persons may have to wait a day or two before staff will be able to get to them.

One-way radios, called black boxes, are already at many agencies and care centers in the event of a disaster causing the phones go out. Local hospitals and care facilities are working toward acquiring satellite phones.

Evan Mendelson - 211 Phone Service

Hotline is working to bring 211 to our county. The purpose of the 211-phone line is to provide health and human services information and referral 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It relieves 911 dispatch staff from answering non-emergency calls. It is an alternative phone number for the public to call for information when a disaster occurs instead of calling 911. It is already in many states and several California counties. Evan is willing to take the lead in establishing a group of volunteers to work in case of an emergency disaster. Evan distributed information on 211.

Tracey Vardas commented that OES supports bringing 211 to this county and the DSS staff man 15 phones at the emergency center to take calls from residents during emergencies. Lee Collins chairs a committee working on moving 211 forward.

The next meeting is February 3, 2006  
9-11 a.m.  
2975 McMillan Street, San Luis Obispo